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International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

Organizational matters relating to the holding of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III)

Report by the Secretariat

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I. Introduction

1. The Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) was convened from 19 to 30 July 1999 at the United Nations Office at Vienna, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/56 of 10 December 1997, as a special session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, open to all States Members of the United Nations. In accordance with the agreement of the Assembly (resolution 52/56, para. 27) to hold UNISPACE III within existing resources to the extent feasible, the cost of organizing UNISPACE III was kept to a minimum. Yet the Conference was attended by more than 2,500 participants, including representatives of 100 States and 30 international organizations and representatives from the private sector, and yielded results comparable to those of United Nations world conferences held in the past. All regional groups expressed their satisfaction with the results of the Conference, in particular the adoption of the "Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development" (A/CONF.184/6, chap. I, resolution I).

2. The present report was prepared in response to a request by the Preparatory Committee of UNISPACE III at its last session, in July 1999. The Office for Outer Space Affairs, the executive secretariat for UNISPACE III, was requested to prepare a report on the organizational matters relating to UNISPACE III in order to provide other entities in the United Nations system with guidelines on using existing resources to organize a conference on global issues. The Committee also requested the executive secretariat to submit the report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

3. In compiling this report, the executive secretariat was provided with inputs from other sections and services of the United Nations Office at Vienna that had contributed to organizing UNISPACE III. The details of the expenditure for the Conference in the report are provided on an indicative basis and are not intended to constitute a full accounting report.

4. This report provides the background behind the agreement to organize UNISPACE III within existing resources, describes in detail how the Conference was organized and analyses why it was able to yield such successful results, identifying aspects of the organization of UNISPACE III that may be peculiar to the field of outer space. In chapter III, section F, a brief comparison is made between the organization of UNISPACE III and that of a previous conference on outer space, the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE 82), which was organized in 1982 on an allocated conference budget. The report indicates that some aspects of the organization of UNISPACE III may be applicable to conferences in other fields. Chapter IV contains some suggestions for organizing future conferences on global issues while limiting the cost.

II. Background of UNISPACE III

5. The rapidly changing international political and economic environment in the 1990s following the cold war affected the course of international cooperation and the work of the United Nations. It had a positive effect on international cooperation in space activities and also had an impact on the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, leading to the agreement to hold UNISPACE III within existing resources.

A. International political and economic environment surrounding space activities

6. With the end of the cold war, the world moved from an era of confrontation to one of cooperation, affecting a whole range of relationships between States. In the field of space activities, competition between the superpowers was replaced by cooperation to optimize existing resources. The Russian Federation, which inherited most of the space capabilities of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and the United States of America joined some of their human space flight activities in the period, leading to the first stage in the construction of the International Space Station, the largest civilian international cooperative project to date, involving 16 countries.

7. The changes in the geopolitical landscape were accompanied by globalization of the economy. Rapid developments in information and computer technology facilitated transactions around the world, increasing the speed and volume of the flow of goods, services and information between countries by many means.

8. In the field of space activities, some developing countries began to manufacture and/or launch spacecraft and to provide space-related services. Some of them began to make important contributions to international cooperative initiatives to promote the use of space science and technology for sustainable development. While the

need for technology transfer from the industrialized countries to the developing countries was still being voiced by many developing countries, some developing countries succeeded in acquiring space capabilities.

9. At the same time, space activities of many "space-faring" countries experienced budget cuts. Economic downturns, prolonged recessions and financial crises in the 1990s and the changing priorities of national projects following the end of the cold war, among other things, led to a thorough review of government spending for research and development in advanced science and technology. Companies had to review their strategies for survival in the post-cold-war period and strengthened their efforts to cut costs and develop new markets. As new markets were created in space-related activities, various space-related services and products began to be provided by the private sector.

B. Reform of the United Nations

10. As the United Nations celebrated its fiftieth anniversary, a number of studies were carried out to reassess the role of the Organization. While many of those studies stressed the need to strengthen the Organization, Member States called for streamlining of the work of the Organization by the introduction of various cost-cutting measures.

11. Following the implementation in 1995 of special cost-saving measures in view of the financial crisis faced by the Organization, the Secretary-General launched an efficiency effort to accelerate change in the management of the Secretariat under the guidance of a newly established Efficiency Board. In 1996, every department and office in the Secretariat carried out efficiency reviews. At the end of that exercise, 400 projects were identified to deliver better service and better value to Member States. Eight teams composed of United Nations staff members, including staff of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Division of Administrative and Common Services at Vienna, have been recognized with "UN 21 Awards" for achieving concrete results in promoting efficiency and effectiveness.

12. At the same time, following the budget reductions by the General Assembly, all departments and offices reviewed their programmes in order to terminate or postpone the delivery of some services and products during the biennium 1996-1997. In the case of the United Nations Office at Vienna, the budget for conference services was cut by approximately 30 per cent, when its net budget before recosting was considered,[1] and the budget for administrative services, before recosting, was cut by more than 20 per cent.[2] While the programme on the peaceful uses of outer space did not suffer from such severe budget cuts, its staff resources were cut by 5 per cent for the biennium 1998-1999.

C. Revitalization of the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

13. Since it was first established by the General Assembly as an ad hoc body in 1958, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has made significant achievements in promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space while maintaining the principle of consensus in conducting its work. The first and second United Nations global conferences on outer space resulted in the establishment and expansion of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. This increased opportunities for developing countries to be exposed to the most advanced space science and technology and their applications through workshops, training courses and fellowship programmes. The work of the Committee and its Legal Subcommittee resulted in the adoption by the General Assembly of five international treaties and five sets of legal principles and declarations, establishing the international legal framework governing space activities. However, during the cold war, the work of the Committee was not immune to the political and ideological rivalries between East and West, which often affected decisions on both substantial and procedural matters.

14. Following the end of the cold war, the Committee took quick action to reflect in its work the international political reality as well as global economic trends. With cost-effectiveness being vigorously pursued by many industrialized nations, the Committee began in 1994 to examine its working methods and those of its subsidiary bodies in order to enhance their efficiency and effectiveness. In 1995, the Committee agreed to conduct its work with maximum flexibility, with a view to concluding its sessions as early as practicable. The Committee also agreed to utilize unedited verbatim transcripts, starting at its 1996 session, in lieu of costly verbatim records and the Legal Subcommittee began to utilize such transcripts at its 1997 session in lieu of summary records, achieving savings in the biennium of approximately $645,000.[3]

15. Against the background of the significant geopolitical changes of the post-cold-war period, in 1996 some member States began to call for changes in the composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies. Since their establishment, the functions of the bureaux had been distributed among States of the East, West and the Group of 77 without fixed terms of office or rotation among regional groups. The initiative taken by those member States led to intense inter-sessional negotiations on the reform of the entire working methods of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, which involved such politically sensitive issues as the introduction of the principles of geographical distribution and rotation in the composition of the bureaux, strengthening the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee and shortening the duration of the annual sessions of the Committee and the Legal Subcommittee. In less than a year, at its 1997 session, the Committee reached agreement on those controversial issues, demonstrating its commitment to reflecting political reality and pursuing efficiency in its work.[4]

16. The Committee made efforts to reflect international political and economic reality in its work not only in its working methods but also in other substantive matters, as in the negotiations that led to the adoption by the General Assembly, in its resolution 51/122 of 13 December 1996, of the Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of All States, Taking into Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries. The Declaration stresses the freedom of States to determine all aspects of their participation in international cooperation in space activities, which is to be carried out on an equitable and mutually acceptable basis, the need to pay particular attention to the benefit and the interests of developing countries and the necessity to conduct cooperation in the modes that are considered most effective and appropriate. The Declaration also recognizes commercial space activities as a mode for international cooperation on an equal basis with activities by Governments. The adoption of the Declaration established the basis for the agreement to hold UNISPACE III and helped to create a more cooperative working atmosphere within the Committee.

III. Organization of UNISPACE III

A. Origin of UNISPACE III

17. The initial proposal to hold a third UNISPACE conference was made at the 1992 session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. India proposed that it should be held in 1995, preferably in a developing country. The organization of such a conference was intended to consolidate the momentum provided by the International Space Year in 1992, during which many space research activities and public activities had been carried out under the central theme "Mission to Planet Earth", coordinated by the Space Agency Forum for International Space Year, whose membership included 29 national space agencies and 10 affiliated international organizations, including the United Nations.[5] While the International Space Year was considered effective in expanding international cooperation in space activities, some countries considered that its effect was primarily on countries with established space programmes.

18. In 1993, the Committee and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee began to consider the possibility of holding a third UNISPACE conference. In examining the need for such a conference, member States realized that the changes in the international political scene had affected perspectives and opportunities for international cooperation in space activities, requiring a new assessment by the international community. It was also noted that the United Nations itself was in the process of adapting to the new international configuration and that its participation in international space activities needed to be re-examined. There had also been rapid advances in all fields of space science and technology, particularly in those which contributed to sustainable development, at a time when the international community was becoming increasingly aware of the importance of protecting the environment. Advances in space science and technology also multiplied the possibilities for practical applications that could provide economic benefits. The role of the private sector in planning and carrying out space activities had also increased.

19. At its 1993 session, the Committee agreed that the most important step was to define a set of sharply focused objectives for such a conference and noted that the goals set for it might also be achieved through other means, including intensification of work within the Committee. In the following years, various ideas and proposals were submitted concerning, *inter alia*, the objectives and agenda of UNISPACE III as well as alternative means of achieving the objectives of such a conference.

20. The Committee could not reach a consensus agreement to convene UNISPACE III until 1996, when all its member States participated in the substantive discussions on UNISPACE III and the politically polarized debate over the principles of international cooperation (see para. 16 above) was resolved. The negotiations concerning UNISPACE III were also affected by growing criticism of the series of world conferences held by the United Nations in the 1990s. Some member States considered those conferences ineffective and wasteful of resources. In the midst of the financial crisis of the Organization, the United States Secretary of State, at the fiftieth session of the General Assembly, in 1995, called for a moratorium on such world conferences. Under those circumstances, it was apparent that the Committee had to find innovative measures to hold UNISPACE III. At its 1996 session, the Committee identified such a measure, which was to hold a special session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, open to all States Members of the United Nations, in Vienna, where the secretariat of the Committee was located, while keeping the cost within existing resources to the extent feasible.

21. The decision on when UNISPACE III should be held depended on the progress made in preparing an agenda for the Conference. In December 1996, the General Assembly indicated its preference (resolution 51/123, para. 28)[6] to hold it in 1999, if agreement could be reached at the 1997 session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on a detailed and sharply focused agenda. At the 1997 session of the Subcommittee, agreement was reached on a provisional agenda, which had been prepared on the basis of proposals by the United States, a group of 14 European countries and the Group of 77.[7] The agenda focused on scientific knowledge of the Earth and its environment and the practical applications of space science and technology while stressing the importance of education and training, promoting economic and societal benefits, including commercial benefits, and furthering international cooperation, including the review of the status of international space law. The Subcommittee also reached agreement on the objectives, participants, additional components and financial aspects of UNISPACE III, which were subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly. This finally led to agreement by the Assembly, in its resolution 52/56, on the dates of the Conference, from 19 to 30 July 1999, when no meetings of other intergovernmental bodies would be scheduled in Vienna.

22. Member States introduced a number of unique elements in shaping the framework of UNISPACE III. Recognizing the increasing role of industry in promoting space activities, they agreed to invite representatives of space-related industry as observers and encouraged their active participation in the activities of the Conference. Member States also agreed that UNISPACE III should result in enhanced opportunities for youth to participate in space activities. This led to agreement to invite young professionals and university students to organize an activity to provide inputs for UNISPACE III. Member States repeatedly stressed the need for further coordination among organizations of the United Nations system in space-related activities. In that context, organizations within the United Nations system were encouraged to contribute actively to UNISPACE III. Finally, both industrialized and developing nations stressed that UNISPACE III should yield concrete results and that realistic and feasible follow-up activities should be planned to implement the recommendations of UNISPACE III. To that end, it was agreed that the recommendations should be sharply focused and limited in number, while indicating some well-defined goals that could be achieved within a short period of time.

B. Organizational arrangements

1. Preparatory bodies of the Conference

23. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee played a vital role in ensuring smooth and orderly preparations for UNISPACE III. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 51/123, the Committee and the Subcommittee acted respectively as Preparatory and Advisory Committees for UNISPACE III. This facilitated the preparation of the agenda, the draft report and schedule of work of the Conference, as the countries represented in those bodies had been working together on the issues directly related to the work of UNISPACE III. The Preparatory Committee and the Advisory Committee held three sessions each. While the number of sessions held by the preparatory bodies seems adequate to complete the preparations for the

Conference, it must be noted that a fair amount of groundwork had been completed by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee before they were designated Preparatory and Advisory Committees. The time between the sessions of those bodies was at least three and a half months, which allowed member States to review their positions and to make progress at each session.

24. A comprehensive proposal by the Secretariat for the framework of the Conference, including the procedure for preparing the draft report of the Conference, was first submitted to the Advisory Committee at its 1998 session (A/AC.105/685 and Corr.1). At its session in June 1998, the Preparatory Committee worked out the entire framework of the Conference, including the provisional rules of procedure, and had before it a preliminary indicative schedule of activities. Details of the organization of work, including the allocation of agenda items, schedule of work of the main bodies of the Conference and a timetable for all its activities, were agreed upon by the Advisory Committee in February 1999.

25. The regional preparatory conferences held in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean and Eastern Europe between May 1998 and January 1999 also played an important role in the preparations for UNISPACE III. Organized within the framework of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, those regional conferences provided opportunities to States that were not members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to become aware of the objectives to be pursued and issues to be discussed at UNISPACE III. More importantly, the regional conferences served to consolidate regional inputs to be reflected in the recommendations of UNISPACE III.

26. Through the annual sessions of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, organizations within the United Nations system with space-related activities began to consider, from 1996, the coordination of their activities for UNISPACE III, such as the organization of technical workshops. The theme of UNISPACE III, "Space benefits for humanity in the twenty-first century", was suggested by the Inter-Agency Meeting in 1997 and endorsed by the preparatory bodies of the Conference. Those organizations which participated in the Inter-Agency Meeting also assisted the Office for Outer Space Affairs in revising the text of the draft report of the Conference in order to reflect the ongoing efforts within the United Nations system to promote the use of space technology for development.

2. Conference secretariat

27. The Office for Outer Space Affairs, which services the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies,[8] acted as the executive secretariat of UNISPACE III. The General Assembly had entrusted that task to the Office in December 1996, two and a half years before the Conference. The Director of the Office was appointed executive secretary of UNISPACE III by the Secretary-General.

28. Staff of the Office absorbed the work of the executive secretariat of the Conference along with the regular work programme and within the existing resources of the Office.[9] While this resulted in a heavy workload for the Office, in particular after July 1997, it contributed to the successful preparation of the Conference, as the staff of the Office were familiar with the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies and had close links with Conference Services and other important support services at the United Nations Office at Vienna. The knowledge and expertise of the staff in scientific and technical as well as policy and legal areas related to space activities enabled the Office to prepare background papers and the drafts of the report of the Conference within its existing resources. The appointment of the Director of the Office as executive secretary was also crucial, as his knowledge of United Nations rules, procedures and methods, experience in organizing United Nations conferences, including UNISPACE 82, and working relationships with high-ranking United Nations officials, Member States, space agencies and prominent space-related international organizations contributed to the successful organization of UNISPACE III despite its organizational complexity and severe financial limitations. However, staff resources of the executive secretariat were stretched to the extreme as the organization of numerous Conference activities became complex, while regular activities remained at their usual level.

3. Structure of the Conference and Conference officers

29. On the basis of the provisional agenda of the Conference agreed upon by the Preparatory Committee, the Secretariat proposed a structure for the Conference (A/AC.105/685 and Corr.1, chap. III, sects. A and D), which was adopted at the 1998 session of the Advisory Committee. In addition to a plenary and two main committees, it was proposed to establish a technical body of the Conference, the Technical Forum. The concept of the

Technical Forum was further refined by the Secretariat and endorsed at the 1998 session of the Preparatory Committee. While the plenary and the main committees considered agenda items with the participation of official delegations, all the activities of the Technical Forum, such as workshops and seminars and round tables, freely discussed various topics related to space activities and were open to all the participants of the Conference. Those workshops and seminars supplemented the work of the main committees by providing a forum for highly scientific and technical discussions related to the agenda items.

30. The Preparatory Committee reached agreement on the composition of the bureau of the Conference without difficulty at its 1998 session as member States accepted the Secretariat's proposal (A/AC.105/685 and Corr.1, paras. 12-14). By February 1999, all 10 offices of the Conference bureau, distributed equitably among the five regional groups, had been agreed upon by consensus and all the candidates nominated by the regional groups were accepted without difficulty. In accordance with the agreement of the Preparatory Committee, the Conference bureau included all the members of the current bureaux of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and Legal Subcommittee. Their experience in and knowledge about the ongoing work of those bodies contributed to the smooth conduct of discussions during the Conference, in particular those affecting the future work of those bodies.

4. Participation of civil society and youth

31. At its fifty-second session, the General Assembly encouraged intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations as well as space-related industries to contribute actively to achieving the objectives of UNISPACE III. In that regard, the Preparatory Committee recommended in 1998 that Member States consider including representatives of industry in their delegations to UNISPACE III. The Committee also agreed to organize various activities to ensure the participation of industry, including a series of technical presentations by industry, space-industry round tables and a space exhibit, as proposed by the Secretariat.

32. The Technical Forum consisted of some 40 workshops, seminars, round tables, special sessions and discussion panels, organized by space agencies, space-related intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations as well as industry. Open to all the participants of the Conference, the Technical Forum offered a unique opportunity for government representatives, industry managers, researchers and university students to freely exchange ideas and views.

33. A unique aspect of UNISPACE III was the integration of the inputs of the Technical Forum into the substantial work of the Conference. At its 1999 session, the Preparatory Committee agreed to forward through the Chairman of the Technical Forum the results and proposals of the workshops and seminars of the Forum, contained in one- to two-page reports, to the main bodies of the Conference during their consideration of its draft report (see A/CONF.184/PC/L.4, paras. 34-37). The main committees incorporated some of the proposals, with amendments where necessary, into the report of the Conference.

34. The organization of the Space Generation Forum, a global forum organized for and by young professionals and university students interested in space activities, was agreed upon by the Preparatory Committee at its 1998 session. The alumni association of the International Space University, a permanent observer of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, organized the activity in order to present to government representatives the visions and perspectives of young professionals around the world concerning future space endeavours. Attended by 160 young professionals and university students between 18 and 35 years old from 60 nations, the Space Generation Forum proved a very successful activity of UNISPACE III and the work it accomplished was welcomed by the Conference.[10]

C. Preparation of the draft report

1. Organization of work in preparing the text of the draft report

35. The preparation of the draft report of the Conference began in June 1997, when the Preparatory Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare an initial draft. In July 1997, the Secretariat requested Member States to provide input for the draft report. Eight States provided inputs addressing issues related to the provisional agenda. In compiling the initial draft, the Secretariat took into account those inputs and utilized information provided by space agencies, international organizations and individual experts in various space-related fields for the 12 background papers that the secretariat had prepared in response to the request by the Preparatory Committee (A/CONF.184/BP/1-12).

36. The initial draft (A/AC.105/C.1/L.218) was considered during the 1998 session of the Advisory Committee. Through intense work during the session, delegates provided detailed comments on the structure of the report and content of the text. Based on those comments, the Secretariat substantially revised the draft text and submitted the revised text to the Preparatory Committee at its 1998 session (A/CONF.184/PC/L.1). The structure of the draft report was agreed upon at that session of the Preparatory Committee. In particular, it was agreed that the commitment of States participating in UNISPACE III to implement the recommendations of the Conference would be reflected in a declaration by the Conference, to be entitled "Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development", or the Vienna Declaration. Agreement was also reached to prepare a summary of the draft report, the main purpose of which would be to highlight the key issues addressed and recommendations contained in the report of the Conference for wide distribution. It was also intended to ensure that high-ranking policy makers around the world would become aware of the objectives and outcomes of UNISPACE III.

37. The text of the draft report was revised four times in total.[11] While the Preparatory Committee, at its 1999 session, which took place immediately before UNISPACE III, made technical corrections to the text, the substance of the draft report remained almost intact as the one already agreed upon at the 1999 session of the Advisory Committee. Owing to time and financial constraints, it was not possible to produce the revised full draft report after the last session of the Preparatory Committee. The draft report as finalized by the Committee was forwarded to the Conference in two documents: the draft report that had been before the Preparatory Committee for its final review and a document that contained only changes made to that draft report. Given the fact that the text of the entire draft report was thoroughly considered during the Conference, it appears that it was not crucial to review the draft report at the final session of the Preparatory Committee, which lasted only three days. It may be more useful to schedule the work of preparatory bodies in such a way as to allow for issuing the final revision of the entire draft report at least two months before a conference.

2. Preparation of the text of "The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development"

38. Intense discussions on the Vienna Declaration began at the 1998 session of the Preparatory Committee. At that session, a drafting group was formed to discuss in detail the draft text of the Vienna Declaration. The most intense discussions before the Conference took place at the 1999 session of the Advisory Committee, however. Proposals containing revised texts of the draft Vienna Declaration were submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (A/CONF.184/PC/CRP.14) on behalf of States members of the European Space Agency, including Canada, and by the Czech Republic (A/CONF.184/PC/CRP.17). Consensus agreement was reached on the basis of a text prepared by the Secretariat merging both proposals and including comments by other States (A/CONF.184/PC/CRP.18 and Rev.1). While attempts were made to include some of the recommendations of the regional preparatory conferences into the main text of the Vienna Declaration, the Advisory Committee agreed, in view of the short time available for discussions, to annex all the recommendations of the regional preparatory conferences to the Vienna Declaration.[12] At its 1999 session the Preparatory Committee made only minor changes to the draft text to forward it to the Conference.

39. During the Conference, intense discussions took place in a working group of the whole, which was established by the Conference to produce a consensus text of the Vienna Declaration. The working group considered a number of proposals submitted by delegations. Once the text was negotiated and agreed upon within the working group, the Vienna Declaration was adopted by the plenary of the Conference without much difficulty.

D. Financial implications

1. Savings made in the conference-servicing resources in the biennium 1998-1999

40. In its resolution 52/56, the General Assembly agreed that in order to service UNISPACE III, to the extent feasible, within existing resources, the level of conference-servicing resources available to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies for the biennium 1998-1999 should remain at the same level as for the biennium 1996-1997. The conference-servicing resources allocated to the Committee and its subsidiary bodies in the biennium 1996-1997 allowed the Committee to hold its regular, annual session for two weeks, that of its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee for two weeks, and that of its Legal Subcommittee for three weeks. The Committee and its Legal Subcommittee were also entitled

to have verbatim records and summary records, respectively, as their meeting records. In the biennium 1998-1999, the Committee and its two subcommittees shortened the duration of their regular sessions and introduced the use of unedited verbatim transcripts in order to save conference resources.

41. In 1998, the regular session of the Committee was shortened from two weeks to one and a half weeks, and that of the Legal Subcommittee from three to two weeks. As for 1999, the Committee agreed to further shorten the regular sessions of the Committee, its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and its Legal Subcommittee to three days, one week and one week, respectively.[13] The duration of the sessions of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies was, therefore, shortened by one and a half weeks in 1998 and four and a half weeks in 1999. The level of conference resources saved in the biennium 1998-1999 was estimated as sufficient to service one body for six weeks. Details of the savings made in this regard are provided in the annex to the present report.

42. The Committee agreed in 1996 that the duration of the Conference should be up to 10 working days, or two weeks.[14] At its 1997 session, the Committee also agreed that no more than two meetings would take place simultaneously.[15] The Office for Outer Space Affairs, therefore, estimated that the minimum meeting resources needed for UNISPACE III would be equivalent to the level of meeting resources required to service two bodies for two weeks. It was also estimated that the level of meeting resources saved in the biennium 1998-1999 should be sufficient to cover the minimum need for UNISPACE III and one more additional body for a few days. It was noted, however, that servicing one body for two weeks, for example, would not be the same as servicing two bodies for one week, as the unavailability of more than one team of in-house interpreters and resulting need to defray the travel costs of freelance interpreters, among other things, would affect the overall cost of conference services.

43. Savings in conference-servicing resources were also achieved by the utilization of unedited verbatim transcripts by the Committee and its Legal Subcommittee, in lieu of verbatim records and summary records. As the unit cost of preparing verbatim records and summary records is five times higher than that of preparing unedited verbatim transcripts, the use of such transcripts resulted in concrete savings in the conference-servicing resources in proportion to the duration of the sessions. Details of the savings made in this way are provided in the annex to the present report.

2. Use of the regular budget of the programme on the peaceful uses of outer space and redeployment of resources by other programmes within the Secretariat

44. In order to augment its capacity in servicing UNISPACE III, the Office for Outer Space Affairs used $50,000 to hire seven temporary staff members at the General Service level and one consultant, for periods ranging from four days to five weeks, and to cover the overtime costs of its General Service staff. The Office was further assisted by six volunteers and six interns, who also assisted the staff of Conference Services. The Human Resources Management Section made arrangements to receive as many interns and volunteers as the Office required and experts provided by space agencies and a Government within the strict instructions of the Organization to limit the acceptance of such experts. The Office also used $63,500 from the regular fellowship budget to cover the cost of air travel and daily subsistence allowance for 22 participants from developing countries.

45. In addition, the Division of Administrative and Common Services redeployed resources to service UNISPACE III. From the regular budget of administration at Vienna, the Division provided support services relating to security and safety, computer cabling and communications, general operation of the conference site, catering and miscellaneous support services that cost approximately $75,000. From the regular budget for conference services at Vienna, the Division provided documentation, interpretation and other meeting services. A comparison of indicative costs for conference services for the intergovernmental bodies in the biennium 1996-1997 and for the same bodies and UNISPACE III during the biennium 1998-1999 is provided in the annex to the present report.

46. Some sections and services of the Division of Administrative and Common Services, in particular the Interpretation and Meetings Section and the United Nations Security and Safety Section, which have much larger staff resources than the substantive secretariat of the Conference, ensured the availability of all their staff during the entire period of the Conference. The functions of some staff of the Interpretation and Meetings Section were re-assigned on a temporary basis to ensure that there would be sufficient staff in any area of conference servicing.

47. The United Nations Information Service at Vienna and the Department of Public Information carried out promotional activities and services for the media and press

by redeploying resources of the programme on public information. The expenditure covered by the Service and the Department amounted to $117,500 and $84,000, respectively. The Department also seconded a Professional staff member to assist the Office for Outer Space Affairs for the duration of the Conference.

48. The capacity of the conference-servicing staff was also augmented by other organizations based in Vienna. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization agreed to release staff during the period of UNISPACE III to assist the conference-servicing staff. The number of staff on loan from UNIDO, IAEA and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization totalled 10. The Agency also provided some conference facilities and equipment at no cost to the United Nations.

3. Voluntary support provided by member States, space agencies and the private sector

49. While Austria was not formally the host country of UNISPACE III, the Government of Austria provided crucial support in cash and in kind for the organization of the Conference and played a role similar to that of a host country. The Government of Austria rented the necessary space at the Austria Center Vienna for the Conference, as part of the headquarters agreement,[16] and extended the secondment of a staff member at the P-2 level for one more year beyond the normal duration of two years under the associate experts programme. Austria also provided substantial financial assistance by co-sponsoring activities of the Technical Forum and the Space Generation Forum, providing financial assistance to 60 participants from developing countries and organizing social activities for participants of the Conference.

50. The Office for Outer Space Affairs was invited to participate in the meetings of the Austrian National Committee for the Preparations for UNISPACE III, which was established in April 1998. The National Committee was chaired by a former Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space who was elected by the Conference as the Chairman of the Technical Forum. Through its participation in the seven meetings of the National Committee, the Office was given the opportunity to indicate conference and other requirements that could be met with the assistance of the Government of Austria.

51. The Office was assisted for a duration of between one and five months by three experts who were seconded by the National Space Development Agency of Japan, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the United States and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France. They assisted the Office, among other things, in servicing the main committees of the Conference, coordinating the preparations for all the activities of the Technical Forum and compiling its reports and proceedings, and issuing the abstracts of national papers and papers submitted by international organizations. In addition, cash and in-kind contributions were provided by the Government of the United Kingdom, the Centre national d'études spatiales of France, the British National Space Centre, the European Space Agency, the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Austrian Aerospace, Austrian Airlines, Austrospace, the Boeing Company, Imax Filmtheater, Iridium, Lockheed Martin Space Operations, Mobilkom Austria, Optikhaus Binder and Saab Ericsson Aerospace. The European Space Agency was particularly generous in co-sponsoring all the regional preparatory conferences. With the above contributions, the Office was able to support the organization of the Space Generation Forum, publish the preliminary and final programmes of the Conference, reproduce posters, rent additional conference facilities and provide financial assistance to a limited number of participants from developing countries.

52. During the consideration of the international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space by the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, the question of the participation of least developed countries was raised in the context of the preparations for UNISPACE III. From voluntary contributions received, the Office was able to provide a limited amount of financial assistance to make possible the participation of least developed countries. The Office extended an invitation to 26 least developed countries to participate in UNISPACE III with financial assistance from the United Nations, 4 of which accepted the invitation.

E. Cooperation between member States and the Secretariat

53. The work of the Office was supported by the States Members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space during the entire preparatory period leading up to UNISPACE III. Concerning the preparation of the draft report of the Conference, a cooperative and constructive

atmosphere prevailed during the 1998 and 1999 sessions of the Preparatory and Advisory Committees. In 1999, for example, the Advisory and Preparatory Committees reviewed the revised versions of the draft report, consisting of approximately 70 pages (400 paragraphs), during their shortened sessions. Clear guidelines and constructive comments provided by member States facilitated the work of the Secretariat in preparing and revising the text of the draft report.

54. Regarding the organization of the Conference, member States accepted the proposals made by the Secretariat without difficulty. The document prepared by the Secretariat (A/CONF.184/PC/L.4) included proposals on the structure of the Conference, composition of the bureau, schedule of work, rules of procedure and participation of industry and youth. At its shortened session in 1999, the Advisory Committee reached agreement on a number of issues on the basis of the proposal by the Secretariat to finalize the organizational arrangements for the Conference.

55. More importantly, the work of the Preparatory and Advisory Committees was greatly facilitated by cooperation among member States. Delegates of Austria, Canada, India, Pakistan and the United Kingdom assisted those bodies by guiding crucial discussions, either by chairing or coordinating politically sensitive informal consultations at different stages of the preparatory process.

F. UNISPACE III compared with the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

56. Compared with UNISPACE 82, UNISPACE III enjoyed several advantages that contributed to its success. When UNISPACE 82 was being planned, politically controversial issues, such as the militarization of outer space, direct broadcasting by satellites, dissemination of remote sensing data and the systematic transfer of technology from developed to developing countries, affected the work of the preparatory bodies of the Conference, in particular when they were preparing the draft report. In the years between 1982 and 1996, all those issues were resolved, by consensus, by the Committee. There were no politically controversial issues of significant magnitude that delayed the preparatory work of UNISPACE III. In contrast to the time of UNISPACE 82, all member States were thoroughly committed to ensuring the success of the Conference while limiting its cost to within existing resources to the extent feasible. That commitment made possible the shortening of sessions of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies by postponing consideration of certain agenda items, which would have been very controversial in a different context.

57. The East-West rivalry during the cold war at the time of UNISPACE 82 and the sharp differences in the views of North and South over the new international economic order affected not only the outcome of that conference but also its organization, including the appointment of the staff of the conference secretariat: the political circumstances at that time complicated the appointment of the Chief of the Outer Space Affairs Division and the executive secretary of that conference, which led to major delays in appointing other senior staff in the conference secretariat. It was also decided to have three Deputy Secretary-Generals of the Conference and three senior advisers, whose capabilities could not be properly used for a long time. In the case of UNISPACE III, there was no such political rivalry between member States to affect adversely the work of the executive secretariat. On the contrary, strong support was given to the secretariat by a number of member States, in particular to ensure stability in the senior management of the Office during the last months of preparations and holding of the Conference.

58. Cooperation among member States and their support for the conference secretariat affects preparations for and outcome of a conference. In the case of UNISPACE 82, the first draft of the report on the conference was submitted to the Advisory Committee in January 1982, just six months before the conference was held. It was revised only twice, by the Advisory Committee in January and by the Preparatory Committee in March-April 1982. By the time UNISPACE 82 began, States members of those preparatory bodies had still been unable to reach agreement on the entire text of the draft report. At UNISPACE 82, there was no consensus to produce any significant document, such as a declaration, to state the commitment of member States to the implementation of the recommendations of the conference. In the case of UNISPACE III, the draft report was first submitted in preliminary form to the Advisory Committee in February 1998, 17 months before the Conference was held, and was revised four times. The entire text of the draft report, including the politically sensitive draft Vienna Declaration, had been agreed upon by all States members of the Preparatory Committee before the Conference began.

IV. Suggestions for organizing a conference on global issues within limited resources

A. Commitment by member States and the conference secretariat

59. The most crucial element for the success of UNISPACE III was the strong commitment of States members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to ensuring the success of UNISPACE III and their support for the work of the secretariat. It is, therefore, important that all States members of the preparatory bodies of a conference participate in the work of those bodies. In order to ensure the commitment by all member States, it is recommended that the work be conducted on the basis of consensus.

60. It is equally important to have a competent conference secretariat that can respond to requests by member States, for example, to prepare essential conference documents, including the draft report of the conference and proposals for the framework of the conference. If the conference secretariat does not have staff resources to prepare such documents, the secretariat should be assisted by relevant agencies of member States and relevant international organizations that can provide inputs for such documents.

61. Member States and international organizations may also assist the conference secretariat by seconding experts—gratis personnel—to it at no cost to the Organization for a limited period. A secretariat is allowed to accept type I gratis personnel, who serve under an established regime such as that applicable to interns, associate experts and technical cooperation personnel, the latter of whom may normally be accepted at places other than Headquarters or the United Nations Offices at Geneva and Vienna; however, in its resolution 51/243 of 15 September 1997, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to phase out type II gratis personnel, that is, all those others who are not type I.[17] The administrative instruction on type II gratis personnel of 28 May 1999 (ST/AI/1999/6) indicates that if new or expanded legislative mandates require type II gratis personnel, the secretariat should inform all member States of such need to be met on a temporary and urgent basis.

62. Experience in the organization of UNISPACE III indicates that if experts are to be provided to the secretariat, it is desirable that they join the secretariat at least three months before the conference, in particular if they are not familiar with the preparatory work already conducted and the rules and practice of the United Nations.

63. The capacity of a conference secretariat could be significantly augmented by interns and volunteers as early as two months before the conference. Their assistance is particularly useful for ensuring the arrangements for conference facilities, meeting various ad hoc needs of participants of the conference and providing inputs for press releases to be prepared by information services. The availability of interns and volunteers may be crucial if the budget of the secretariat for overtime and general temporary assistance is limited.

64. In order to limit the cost of organizing the conference, the framework of the conference, in particular the number of bodies to be provided with conference services and the minimum number of teams of interpreters to be required, should be determined at least two years before the conference. It is desirable to have an estimate of the number of participants attending the conference, and preferably also for each body of the conference, one year to six months in advance. It is also important to avoid holding the conference in periods when other intergovernmental meetings are scheduled. This would enhance the ability of the secretariat to make conference arrangements, in particular staff redeployment and the rental of space and technical equipment, at the lowest possible cost.

65. Voluntary contributions from member States and other entities in cash and in kind are particularly crucial to efforts to meet conference requirements for additional activities that are not envisaged when the framework of the conference is determined. When a conference budget does not exist, or is severely limited, voluntary contributions will be the source of resources for producing conference publications for distribution to the public and other activities aimed at providing publicity for the conference. Such contributions may also be crucial in complementing financial assistance to developing countries to participate in the conference.

B. Participation of civil society: inputs by non-governmental organizations, industry and young people

66. UNISPACE III benefited from in-depth discussion of highly technical issues at workshops, seminars and other meetings organized by space agencies and other

space-related organizations within the framework of the Technical Forum, as some of the proposals made in those meetings were incorporated into the report of the Conference as part of its recommendations. Those international non-governmental organizations which organized meetings within the Technical Forum also played an important role in publicizing UNISPACE III through their members.

67. Strengthening partnership with non-governmental organizations is one of the overarching goals of the United Nations. Considering that some non-governmental organizations have large international memberships, they could contribute to publicizing the conference for a wide range of lay people around the world. It is recommended that non-governmental organizations be invited at an early stage in the preparations. It is important to inform them fully of the objectives and issues to be discussed at the conference and also to consider ways to integrate their input into the substantial work of the conference.

68. One of the most successful activities of UNISPACE III was the Space Generation Forum. The proposals and recommendations made by young professionals and university students participating in the Forum were well received by all delegations. The Conference decided to annex to its report some of the proposals as selected by the Space Generation Forum and agreed to include a few of them in the Vienna Declaration. Considering that many of the participants of the Space Generation Forum had already started or were about to pursue a career in space-related fields, the success of the Forum had a positive impact on those young participants who may be in a position to lead their organizations in implementing some of the recommendations of UNISPACE III in the not-too-distant future.

69. The organization of a major space exhibition, open to the public, contributed to an increased awareness among local people of UNISPACE III and helped ensure the participation of space-related industry. Approximately 90 companies and space-related organizations participated in the space exhibition. As demonstrated by the cooperation with the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, it is advisable for the organization of such an exhibition to be coordinated by an organization that has experience in organizing international exhibitions, working contacts with potential exhibitors, in particular industry, and the ability to publicize the exhibition widely. In order to facilitate the participation of industry, schedule conflicts with other similar exhibitions should be avoided as far as possible.

70. To promote the participation of industry, it would be crucial to communicate clearly to as many companies as possible the objectives and expected outcomes of the conference that would have direct relevance to their ongoing and planned activities. This should be done as early as possible, but no later than one year before the conference. While the secretariat may seek voluntary contributions by industry to supplement the resources for the conference, attempts to seek such contributions on an ad hoc basis would most likely fail. A comprehensive strategy should be developed, in close cooperation with member States, to identify the benefits that the conference could offer to industry, whether on a long-term or short-term basis, without prejudice to any interests of member States, and to specify what contributions are expected from industry. Strong support from Governments for the participation of industry is also important for companies to determine their participation.

V. Conclusion

71. The feasibility of organizing a United Nations conference within existing resources will depend on the scale and scope of the conference. However, it is possible to reduce costs substantially if preparatory work for the conference is absorbed by the existing intergovernmental and secretariat bodies whose work has direct relevance to the issues to be discussed at the conference. Curtailing the regular activities of those bodies in the years preceding the conference could also contribute to reducing the costs associated with holding such a conference. This is particularly so when the conference resources not used by those bodies in preceding years are utilized by meetings of other bodies that would otherwise require additional conference resources.

72. If regular activities are to be curtailed to achieve savings in the resources to service a conference, the total level of budgetary resources should not be reduced as a result of the reduced level of regular activities. This would require well coordinated actions between the intergovernmental body and the secretariat body responsible for the preparatory work for the conference and those responsible for administrative and budgetary questions. If the level of budgetary resources for administrative services, in particular conference services, continues to decrease, redeployment of such resources to service conferences in

the future will not be feasible. If there is no separate conference budget, it is critical to ensure that minimum requirements for organizing the conference are covered within existing resources. In order to identify the level of resources to meet the absolute requirements and to achieve the necessary savings in existing resources, early planning for the conference is also essential.

73. It is important to ensure the participation of least developed countries in the conference and to meet the minimum conference requirements essential for organizing the conference. The executive secretariat should not depend solely on voluntary contributions for these purposes, as it is not possible to predict what resources will be provided through voluntary contributions. Therefore, it is recommended that the executive secretariat of the conference be provided with a conference budget to cover these minimum requirements.

74. While voluntary contributions cannot be the source of resources to meet the minimum requirements for the conference, such contributions will be useful to ensure the successful organization of the conference and to meet unforeseen, ad hoc requirements. The level of voluntary contributions depends on the level of interest among member States and other entities invited to the conference. It is therefore essential that the conference address issues of interest to all member States and other invited entities and that the conference is expected to have a positive outcome. For that reason, it is desirable for all the member States to agree on a consensus basis on the objectives to be pursued at the conference. Attempts to use a conference as a forum in which to resolve major differences in views among member States on politically controversial issues will most likely fail if the conference is to be organized within existing resources or with severely limited resources.

75. The organization of UNISPACE III within existing resources of the Organization was possible because certain conditions were met. As indicated in the present report, a set of measures taken by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to save conference-servicing resources over the years, re-assignments of staff work and redeployment of funds by many sections and services at the United Nations Office at Vienna and the large amount of work conducted by the substantive secretariat in planning and executing all aspects of the Conference, as well as voluntary contributions by States, international organizations and the private sector, all contributed significantly to the success of UNISPACE III.

Notes

[1] The cost of providing services is shared by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency, which are based in Vienna. The net budget indicates the cost covered by the United Nations Office at Vienna, and excludes the cost borne by the other organizations in Vienna.

[2] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/54/6/Rev.1), vol. II, sections 2 and 27F.

[3] See document A/AC.105/L.207 for a comparison of costs of verbatim records, summary records and unedited verbatim transcripts.

[4] For the agreement on the working methods of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/52/20), annex I.

[5] See *International Space Year: A Yearbook of Global Activities for ISY 1992*, US International Space Year Association, 1993.

[6] See also resolution 50/27, para. 34.

[7] The proposals submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, on behalf of Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland, and by the United States are contained in documents A/AC.105/C.1/L.209 and A/AC.105/C.1/L.211, respectively. The proposals made by the Group of 77 are contained in documents A/AC.105/637 and Corr.1, annex II, appendix I, and A/AC.105/C.1/L.212.

[8] Following a request by the General Assembly, the small expert unit that had initially been established to render assistance to the Ad Hoc Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space became a unit within the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs in 1962 to service the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. It was transformed into the Outer Space Affairs Division of that Department in 1968 and then into the Office for Outer Space Affairs within the Department of Political Affairs in 1992. Since 1993, when the Office was transferred from New York to the United Nations Office at Vienna, it has also been servicing the Legal Subcommittee, which had previously been serviced by the Office of Legal Affairs.

[9] There were 13 Professional staff members, including the Director of the Office at the D-2 level. The Space Applications Section, responsible for the implementation of the activities of the Programme on Space Applications, was headed by a senior official at the D-1 level, and its work was carried out by five P-4/P-3 staff members. The Committee Services and Research Section, responsible for providing secretariat services to the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, was headed by a senior official at the P-5 level, and its work was carried out by four P-3/P-2 staff members, of whom three left the Office between

December 1997 and March 1999, to be replaced by recruits between March 1998 and July 1999.

[10] Reports of the Space Generation Forum are contained in documents A/CONF.184/L.8 and Corr.1, A/CONF.184/L.14 and A/CONF.184/C.1/L.11 and Corr.1.

[11] After the initial draft contained in document A/AC.105/C.1/L.218, the text of the draft report was revised four times (see A/CONF.184/PC/L.1, A/CONF.184/PC/1 and A/CONF.184/3 and Corr.1-3). Document A/CONF.184/3/Corr.2 contained all the changes made by the Preparatory Committee at its 1999 session to the text contained in document A/CONF.184/3, which had been reviewed by the Advisory Committee at its 1999 session. The entire draft report as amended by the Preparatory Committee at its 1999 session was not issued.

[12] The recommendations of the four regional preparatory conferences are contained in documents A/CONF.184/PC/L.5 and Add.1.

[13] The 1999 session of the Legal Subcommittee was held immediately following that of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

[14] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/51/20), para. 176.

[15] The recommendations contained in the report of the Working Group of the Whole (A/AC.105/672, annex II) were endorsed by the Committee.

[16] In accordance with the headquarters agreement, the Government of Austria rents space for any conference organized by the United Nations at Vienna that cannot be accommodated at the Vienna International Centre.

[17] For a detailed description of type I and type II gratis personnel, see the report of the Secretary-General of 21 November 1996 (A/51/688 and Corr.1 and Add.1-3).

Annex I

Indicative cost figures for conference services and other support for the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III)

1. UNISPACE III was organized within the existing resources of the Organization. This was possible because of many compromises made by States members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, a large amount of extra work by staff of the United Nations Office at Vienna, coordination among secretariat units to spread workloads over a long period of time and redeployment of resources.

2. The shortening of the sessions of the Committee and its two Subcommittees had its main impact in reducing expenditures in interpretation and meeting services in the biennium during which the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) was held. Table 1 shows the figures for the full budget resources to which the intergovernmental bodies were entitled in the biennium 1996-1997. Cost figures for the biennium 1998-1999 reflect the indicative costs for the actual meetings held for all the bodies shown.

Table 1
Indicative figures for costs of interpretation and meeting services for the biennium 1998-1999, during which UNISPACE III was held, and the biennium 1996-1997

Intergovernmental body	*Biennium 1996-1997*	*Biennium 1998-1999 (United States dollars)*	*Difference*
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee	343 800 2 x (2 weeks)	257 850 (2 weeks + 1 week)	
Legal Subcommittee	544 350 2 x (3 weeks)	257 850 (2 weeks + 1 week)	
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space	343 800 2 x (2 weeks)	157 575 (8 days + 3 days)	
UNISPACE III		408 000 (2 weeks; 2 bodies) (9 days; 1 body)	
Total	1 231 950	1 081 275	150 675

3. Besides the shortening of sessions of the intergovernmental bodies, the Committee made other important decisions. It agreed that only the abstracts of the national papers would be translated into official languages; that the copies of the national papers should be provided by Member States and international organizations; that the Office for Outer Space Affairs would act as the executive secretariat (i.e. that no new Conference secretariat would be created); and that the 12 background papers and the initial text of the draft report of UNISPACE III would be prepared by the executive secretariat. Those decisions were taken in consultation with the executive secretariat.

4. Some decisions were not taken exclusively to reduce the cost of organizing UNISPACE III, but also had a positive impact on the global resources of the Organization. The Committee and its Legal Subcommittee decided to utilize unedited verbatim transcripts in lieu of the verbatim and summary records they were entitled to request. The notional cost of unedited transcripts for the sessions of the two bodies during the biennium 1998-1999 was $101,300 compared with the $572,000 that the verbatim and summary records would have cost. The amount of approximately $470,700 not spent by the Organization offset to a large extent the increase in the cost of documentation in the biennium 1998-1999, during which UNISPACE III was held, compared with the previous biennium (see tables 2 and 3).

Table 2
Indicative figures for costs of translation of documents issued for the biennium 1998-1999, during which UNISPACE III was held, and for the biennium 1996-1997[a]

Intergovernmental body	*Biennium 1996-1997*	*Biennium 1998-1999 (United States dollars)*	*Difference*
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee	973 978	767 232	
Legal Subcommittee	302 831	175 981	
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space	302 062	607 147	
UNISPACE III		695 283	
Total	1 578 871	2 245 643	666 722[b]

[a]The figures are on the basis of the same notional cost per translated page for both bienniums.
[b]Offset by $470,700 not spent owing to the use of unedited transcripts (see para. 4).

Table 3
Figures for costs of printing of documents for the biennium 1998-1999, during which UNISPACE III was held, and for the biennium 1996-1997

Intergovernmental bodies[a]	*Biennium 1996-1997*	*Biennium 1998-1999 (United States dollars)*	*Difference*
Total	213 538	317 707	104 169

[a]Includes the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for the biennium 1996-1997, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, the Legal Subcommittee, and the same bodies plus UNISPACE III for the biennium 1998-1999.

5. The Committee, the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the various conference and meeting support services of the United Nations Office at Vienna took action to curtail the cost of organizing UNISPACE III. That action resulted in expenses not incurred or in savings within the allocated budgets of the units of the Secretariat involved in servicing the Conference. This enabled the units concerned to redeploy resources. Table 4 shows the level of resources redeployed by the Secretariat in support of UNISPACE III.

Table 4
Figures of resources redeployed for UNISPACE III by the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the General Support Section, United Nations Office at Vienna

United Nations Office at Vienna	*Amount redeployed (United States dollars)*	*Main purpose*
Office for Outer Space Affairs	121 000	Funding of participants; general temporary assistance
General Support Section	80 000	Technical equipment; communications; security and other services
Total	201 000	